

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 3-18, and 20-21 are currently pending. Claims 3-18 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, and 19 have been cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 20-21 have been added. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1-19 as being in improper form for lacking line indentations to separate each element or step. The pending claims have been amended, where applicable, to overcome this objection.

The Office Action objected to claims 2-18 for each reciting “A machine . . .” instead of “The machine . . .” The pending claims have been amended, where applicable, to overcome this objection.

The Office Action objected to the claims for use of the language “can be.” The claims have been amended, where applicable, to remove any instances of “can be.”

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,477,741 to Hösel. Claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced by new independent claim 20. Similarly, claim 19 has been cancelled and replaced by new independent claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Hösel does not anticipate independent claims 20, and 21, as demonstrated below.

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Independent claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, “a sensor arrangement comprising . . . a photoelectric sensor adapted to detect light reflected from the waste and convert the reflected light into electrical signals.” Hösel does not disclose such an arrangement. To the contrary, Hösel discloses a camera 41, such as a CCD camera. (See, e.g., Hösel, 4:46-48, 60-65.) A camera is not a ***photoelectric sensor*** as recited in independent claim 20. Furthermore, Hösel does not disclose that the camera 41 detects light reflected from the waste and converts the reflected light into electrical signals, as further recited by independent claim 20. Thus, Hösel does not disclose each and every element of independent claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20, and its dependent claims 3-18, are patentable over Hösel.

Independent claim 21 recites a photoelectric sensor similar to the one discussed above. Specifically, claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, “at least one sensor arrangement associated with the collecting device, the sensor arrangement comprising . . . a photoelectric sensor adapted to detect light reflected by good fibres in the waste and convert the reflected light into electrical signals.” As demonstrated above, Hösel does not disclose such an arrangement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over Hösel.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for

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any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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